Welcome Guests! We're glad you're here. You can learn more about us via the brochure in the back of the seat in front of you, or at <a href="https://www.firstparishyork.net">www.firstparishyork.net</a>.

**Restrooms:** Restrooms are located on the lower level of this building, which is accessed by stairs in the foyer. Wheelchair accessible restrooms can be found across the drive in Fellowship Hall. For access during the worship service, please see a Deacon.

**Nursery Care:** Our downstairs nursery is not currently staffed, but you are welcome to accompany your child to the nursery at any point during the worship and spend time there as a family if you feel that you need to.

**Video and Streaming:** We stream our worship services live and archive them on <a href="www.youtube.com/@firstparishyork">www.youtube.com/@firstparishyork</a>. If for privacy reasons you do not wish to have you or your children's faces appear on video, you can sit in pews that are marked on the ends with blue tape. Feel free to ask a deacon to show you what those markings look like.

**Photos:** We regularly take photos for use in media. If you would prefer you or your child's image not be used, please inform a pastor after worship.

**Sunday School:** During the school year, anyone age 4 through 8th grade is welcome to attend Sunday School. We ask that parents/guardians fill out a registration form on the first visit; our Deacons will be happy to connect you with someone from Sunday School before the children make their way outside. Partway through Sunday services, children are invited to meet with their teachers in the church foyer. Together, students and teachers will make their way to the Fellowship Hall to take part in fun and faith-based activities centered around a theme from the Bible. (Family members are always welcome to attend Sunday School if you wish!) After worship is over, families can go across the drive to sign out their children with the teachers. Sunday School is free of charge.

# No Matter Who You Are or Where You Are On Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here!

We covenant with God and with one another as members of First Parish Church to be an Open and Affirming Church. We affirm the dignity and worth of every person created in the image of God. We are one body with many members: people of every age, marital status, family structure, faith background, physical and mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, racial and cultural identity, and socioeconomic status. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we invite all into the full life, ministry, and sacraments of the church. We honor the guiding principle that discrimination is incompatible with Christ's message of unconditional love.

180 York Street, York, Maine 03909 • 207-363-3758 office@firstparishyork.net • www.firstparishyork.net



# First Parish Church Congregational United Church of Christ

"This is the day that the lord made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24

# SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 ~ 10AM WORSHIP

\*Indicates a time when you are invited to stand if you choose.

PRELUDE Two Hymn Settings

"HYFRYDOL" Phil Lehenbauer (b. 1960)

"AMAZING GRACE" Frederick Swann (1931-2022)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dan Hollis

CHIMES FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

(Candles will be lit as a sign of Christ's light in the world.)

GATHERING PRAYER (together)

Shawn McCartee

O God, from your providing hand even the dissatisfied and grumbling receive what they need for their lives. Teach us your ways of justice and lead us to practice your generosity, so that we may live a life worthy of the gospel made known through your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior, who taught us to pray...

LORD'S PRAYER (together)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

\*OPENING HYMN "THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY" No. 61

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Eric Dupee

(Children ages 4 and up are invited to go to the church foyer to meet with their Sunday School teachers immediately following the Message for All Ages.)

ANTHEM

"THE SERVANT SONG" Arr., David Haas (b. 1957)

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

(The full text of the anthem may be found on page 391 of the hymnal.)

First Parish Sanctuary Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE Matthew 20:1-16 N.T. 19 Shawn McCartee

SERMON Rev. Dan Hollis

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS** "COME, LABOR ON" T. Tertius Noble (1867-1953)

Come, labor on. Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain while all around him waves the golden grain?

And to each servant does the Master say, "Go work today."

Come, labor on. Away with gloomy doubts and faithless fear!

No arm so weak may do service here.

By feeblest agents may our God fulfill his righteous will.

— Jane L. Borthwick (1813-1897)

(Please sign and pass the maroon fellowship pads on the center aisle of each pew, look at the names as they are passed back and forth and greet one another after the service.)

\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF COMMITMENT (together) No. 34

You are free to sing inclusive lyrics (below) or traditional lyrics (from the hymnal).

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*CLOSING HYMN "AMAZING GRACE!" No. 422

CLOSING BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN

**POSTLUDE** Recessional on "CWM RHONDDA" Arr., Lehenbauer

We invite the congregation to remain seated in order to enjoy the postlude. However, you are welcome to exit the sanctuary at any time.

Flowers are given in memory of beloved family and friends by Kim and Mel Clauson.

### THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> 10am Worship

11:30am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup> 8:30am Shake It Up

6:30pm Church Council Meeting

**Tuesday, September 26**<sup>th</sup> 8:30am Yoga

Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> 8am Strength Training

9:30am Wednesday Bible Study-Zoom

7pm Faith 101

Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> 8am Zumba

5pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6pm Sweet Spirit Rehearsal

7pm Sanctuary Choir

Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> 8am Aerobics

6pm Youth Group-grades 5-8

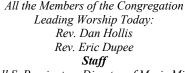
Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> 10am Worship

11am York Ready for Climate Action Presentation

11:30am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

3pm Youth Group-grades 9-12

#### Ministers



Wendell S. Purrington, Director of Music Ministries Terrie Ilaria. Music Associate

#### First Parish Church Lay Leaders

John Covino, Moderator Kristin Schrimper, Vice Moderator Ray Hamlin, Treasurer Susan Mancinelli, Clerk



**The Pumpkin Patch:** *Pumpkins are here!*. Volunteers needed in the Pumpkin Patch. The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Pumpkin Patch will be open 7 days a week, for four weeks or until the pumpkins are sold. Any and all volunteers will be gratefully accepted. No experience necessary. Check your calendars now! Chris Briley, Richard Leigh, Bob and Joanne Myers

Sign Up <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49ACAF23A6F85-2023#/">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49ACAF23A6F85-2023#/</a>

**Faith 101: Faith Formation for Adults:** Wednesdays at 7pm. Get to know your faith better with these one-month classes led by Pastor Dan. This year there will be four self-contained units to choose from, each with a start and end date. Choose the units that work best for you, or come to them all!

Get to Know Your Bible (September-October) September 27, October 4, October 11

Get to Know God (October-November) Get to Know Christ (January-February)

Get to Know Church (April-May)

Contact <u>dan@firstparishyork.net</u> if you're interested in joining us for "Get to Know Your Bible," starting September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in Pastor Dan's office.

**Inquirers Series:** Visitors and guest are invited to two Inquirers Coffee and Conversations information sessions on October 8 from 11am-12noon or October 15 from 8:30am-9:30am. Contact the Parish office at office@firstparishyork.net or 207-363-3758 to RSVP.

**First Wednesday Food Pantry Drive**: October 4 from 10am-11am. The pantry's wish list includes baked beans, Knorr pasta and sides, white tuna, and Progresso soups. The pantry will be happy with other nonperishable food items and is always grateful for monetary contributions. Please make checks payable to YCSA Food Pantry. We will need a couple of folks to help on October 4, maybe that's YOU! More info? Linda Drew p.l.drew79@me.com or 207-351-8141.

Green Tip/News: Toby Kiers, professor of evolutionary biology at Amsterdam's Vrije Universiteit whose research on fungi has led her to revelations about how nature itself can help solve the climate crisis. She is looking beyond the astonishing diversity of mushrooms we see growing above ground to the hidden systems we overlook: fungal webs that spread throughout the soil and nourish the roots of trees and plants. An article in Current Biology reveals that a group of fungi known as mycorrhizae draw down and store more that 13 million tons of CO2 annually. That's nearly the annual greenhouse gas output of China AND the US combined. Current Biology/CellPress/Kiers

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All the Members of the Congregation Leading Worship Today: Rev. Dan Hollis Rev. Eric Dupee

#### Staff

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Green Tip/News: Shipping accounts for about 3% of global greenhouse gas emissions, but recent research suggests that rate could be significantly reduced within the decade, using only decarbonizing strategies that have already been proven and put to use. A report from CE Delft, a Dutch environmental consulting firm, showed that emissions from international shipping could be lowered 28-47% by 2030, relative to 2008 stats. There are a few methods shipping companies could employ, including reducing ship speeds by 20-30%, using wind-assisted propulsion, and swapping fossil fuels with near-zero or zero-emission fuels, like hydrogen and biogas. <a href="https://cedelft.eu">https://cedelft.eu</a>